Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00

EUR-12 AEC-05 ISO-00 ACDA-05 EA-06 OES-03 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

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FM USMISSION OECD PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASH DC 4945

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION USBERLIN

USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

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EXCON

E.O. 11652: XGDS1

TAGS: ESTC, COCOM, GW, UR, ENRG

SUBJECT: PRESS INTEREST IN COCOM ASPECTS OF GERMAN NUCLEAR POWER TRANSACTION WITH USSR - AEL

1 AND 36; IL 1565

REFS: A. COCOM DOC. (74) 1859

B. STATE 000047

1. US COCOM DELEGATION RECEIVED TELEPHONE CALL JANUARY 8 FROM GENE OISHI, BONN CORRESPONDENT OF THE "BALTIMORE SUN", INQUIRING ABOUT ARTICLE ON PAGE 6 OF SAME DAY'S EDITION OF LONDON "FINANCIAL TIMES". WE HAD NOT THEN SEEN IT. ARTICLE REPORTS PROPOSED GERMAN SALE OF NUCLEAR POWER PLANT TO USSR HAS ENCOUNTERED RESERVATIONS IN COCOM FROM FRANCE, UK AND US OVER ISSUE OF IAEA CONFIDENTIAL

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SAFEGUARDS. (AS ALREADY REPORTED, FRANCE HAS LIFTED ITS

RESERVE.) COPIES POUCHED WASHINGTON.

- 2. OISHI ASKED SERIES OF QUESTIONS AIMED AT ASCERTAINING STATUS OF CASE AND WHETHER IT WAS TRUE THAT FRANCE, UK AND US WERE HOLDING IT UP. POINTING OUT THAT COCOM DELIBERATIONS ARE CONFIDENTIAL, WE CONFIRMED THAT MATTER WAS BEFORE THE COMMITTEE AND THAT CERTAIN MEMBERS HAD NOT COMPLETED THEIR STUDY OF IT, BUT REFUSED TO SAY WHICH ONES, OR TO GO INTO OTHER DETAILS. OISHI ASKED WHETHER FRG COULD PROCEED WITH THE TRANSACTION IF COCOM REFUSED TO APPROVE IT. WE REPLIED THAT IT COULD BUT THAT MEMBER GOVERNMENTS WOULD THINK CAREFULLY BEFORE CARRYING OUT AN EXPORT THAT HAD BEEN DISAPPROVED BY THE COMMITTEE.
- 3. UKDEL, CALLED BY USDEL AFTER CONVERSATION WITH OISHI, SAID HE HAD SEEN "FINANCIAL TIMES" ARTICLE AND HAD BEEN IN TOUCH WITH LONDON ABOUT IT. HE WAS TOLD THAT, IF ASKED, FCO WOULD CONFIRM THAT MATTER WAS BEFORE COCOM AND WAS OF SOME CONCERN TO UK. IF SEVERELY PRESSED, FCO WOULD ACKNOWLEDGE THAT SAFEGUARDS WERE AT ISSUE.
- 4. FOLLOWING DAY, JANUARY 9, USDEL RECEIVED CALL FROM PARIS CORRESPONDENT OF "BUSINESS WEEK," WHO ALSO ASKED ABOUT "FINANCIAL TIMES" ARTICLE. FOR BACKGROUND ONLY, HE WAS TOLD THAT IT WAS SUBSTANTIALLY ACCURATE. HE WAS REFERRED TO WASHINGTON FOR FURTHER DETAILS.
- 5. ACTION REQUESTED: CONSIDERING INTEREST SHOWN IN THIS MATTER, WE WOULD APPRECIATE GUIDANCE FROM DEPARTMENT FOR POSSIBLE FUTURE PRESS INQUIRIES ABOUT IT. TURNER

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Message Attributes

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